

POTATO ESTIMATING PROGRAM

July 2000

The estimating program for potatoes includes a number of estimates that span more than a year. Nationally, potatoes are estimated by seasonal groups: winter, spring, summer, and fall. Washington is one of the 7 major fall potato states. Stocks estimates are made for the 15 major states that account for about 97 percent of the fall production total. Washington is the number 2 producing state of fall potatoes and accounts for about one-fifth of the nation's total.

Estimates for potatoes are made using information collected from producers, potato processors, and other agri-businesses. Data from growers are used for acreage, yield, production, and stock estimates. Data obtained from the potato processors are used for the potato processing report, stocks, prices, and cold storage. Secondary information is used as check data, such as marketings and grower disposition surveys. Acreage estimates are set with a combination of survey indications that come from both a probability survey and a non-probability survey. A general description of a probability sample is where each operation in the state has a chance of being selected and a response is necessary for each operation selected. Potato growers are surveyed for acreage planted as of June 1, and the estimates are released in the July Crop Production Report. The next estimates of planted and harvested acreage are released in the November Crop Report. A grower survey is done in conjunction with the fall acreage and production survey in November and any revisions to the June estimate are based on information obtained from this survey. The final end-of-season estimates are published in the Potato Report released in late September the following year.

Yield estimates for fall potatoes are forecast as of November 1 and December 1. Washington has the highest average yield in the United States. Survey indications from potato producers are used in conjunction with an objective yield survey. The objective yield survey is relatively easy to understand in principle. Two units are laid out for each sample. Row widths and plant counts are taken in a 20 foot section of the row to establish an estimate of plants per acre. Three hills are dug from each unit and the potatoes are weighed. The average weight per

hill multiplied by the plant population produces an indication of gross yield. A post-harvest sample is used to estimate the quantity of potatoes left in the field after harvest and is deducted from the gross yield to determine the net yield, the actual quantity taken from the field. Although the procedure is straightforward, the key is randomly placing the samples in fields so that the 220 samples selected in Washington will represent the state's acreage accurately. Information regarding varieties is also collected during the potato objective yield survey. In Washington, Russet Burbank is the most popular variety, as it can be used for both processing and fresh market.

Harvest begins in July for the early varieties of Shepody and Norkotah. Harvest of the Russet Burbanks usually lasts through the middle of November. Monthly stocks estimates begin on December 1 and run through May 1. Potato storage operators are surveyed beginning December 1 and this data, along with disposition information collected from processors, is used to set the December 1 stocks estimate. Idaho, Washington, and Oregon complete a Tri-State balance sheet for stocks each month from December 1 through May 1, where inshipments, outshipments, and the total disposition of potatoes within each state and the Tri-State area are tabulated. Processing data are published from October 1 through May 1. Due to disclosure problems, processing data for Idaho, Oregon, and Washington are published as two estimates. Idaho and Malheur County Oregon, and Washington and Other Counties Oregon. Potato stocks reports, which also include processing, acreage, and production estimates, are published from December 1 through May 1, at both the national and states levels. Each year, a survey on disposition of the previous year's crop is done during June in conjunction with the acreage survey for the current year's planted acreage. The annual disposition and processing estimates are published at the end of September in the Annual Potato Report.

For the most current Washington State releases you can visit our web site at www.nass.usda.gov/wa or call (360)902-1940.

State Rankings, 1999 Crop Year

Top Ten States and the United States, Based on Production

State	Rank	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production
		1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres	Cwt.	1,000 Cwt.
Idaho	1	395.0	393.0	339.0	133,330
Washington	2	170.0	170.0	560.0	95,200
Wisconsin	3	86.0	85.0	400.0	34,000
Colorado	4	85.1	84.6	336.0	28,419
Oregon	5	56.0	55.5	505.0	28,020
North Dakota	6	121.0	110.0	240.0	26,400
Minnesota	7	48.0	47.5	340.0	18,020
Maine	8	65.0	62.5	285.0	17,813
California	9	43.2	43.2	376.0	16,227
Michigan	10	48.0	47.5	315.0	14,963
United States		1,377.0	1,332.6	359.0	478,398

* Preliminary.

Potatoes: Acreage, Yield, & Production, By Counties, Washington, 1997-98

County and District	1997				1998			
	Planted	Harvested	Yield Per Harvested Acre	Production	Planted	Harvested	Yield Per Harvested Acre	Production
	Acres		Cwt.		Acres		Cwt.	
COUNTY								
Adams	20,000	20,000	605	12,108,000	20,000	20,000	570	11,400,000
Benton	25,500	25,500	630	16,070,000	28,500	28,500	630	17,962,000
Franklin	38,000	38,000	570	21,678,000	43,000	43,000	550	23,650,000
Grant	43,000	43,000	600	25,820,000	43,000	43,000	595	25,600,000
Kittitas	500	500	370	185,000	600	600	370	222,000
Klickitat	1,000	1,000	595	595,000	1,400	1,400	590	826,000
Lincoln	1,000	1,000	540	540,000	3,000	3,000	510	1,530,000
Skagit	7,500	7,500	325	2,440,000	8,400	8,400	315	2,645,000
Walla Walla	11,000	11,000	640	7,040,000	11,500	11,500	630	7,250,000
Whatcom	1,600	1,600	300	480,000	2,400	2,400	340	815,000
Yakima	2,000	2,000	420	840,000	2,000	2,000	415	830,000
Other Counties	900	900	720	364,000	1,200	1,200	413	495,000
DISTRICT								
West	9,300	9,300	320	2,976,000	11,100	11,100	320	3,550,000
Central	29,000	29,000	610	17,690,000	32,500	32,500	610	19,840,000
Northeast	700	700	440	308,000	900	900	450	405,000
E. Central	102,000	102,000	590	60,146,000	109,000	109,000	570	62,180,000
Southeast	11,000	11,000	640	7,040,000	11,500	11,500	630	7,250,000
STATE TOTAL	152,000	152,000	580	88,160,000	165,000	165,000	565	93,225,000

County Rankings, 1998 Crop Year: Top 100 Counties*, Based on Production

Rank	State	County	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production	% of U.S.	Accum. % of U.S.
			Acres	Acres	Cwt.	Cwt.		
1	WA	Grant	43,000	43,000	595	25,600,000	6.00	6.00
2	WA	Franklin	43,000	43,000	550	23,650,000	5.55	11.55
3	ID	Bingham	63,800	63,500	310	19,684,000	4.62	16.17
4	WA	Benton	28,500	28,500	630	17,962,000	4.21	20.38
5	ID	Cassia	34,000	33,800	410	13,858,000	3.25	23.38
6	ID	Power	35,000	34,800	345	12,006,000	2.82	26.44
7	WA	Adams	20,000	20,000	570	11,400,000	2.67	29.12
8	ID	Madison	40,000	39,700	280	11,116,000	2.61	31.72
9	CO	Alamosa	28,200	28,200	350	9,840,000	2.31	34.03
10	ID	Minidoka	25,500	25,400	380	9,652,000	2.26	36.29
11	ID	Fremont	32,000	31,800	300	9,540,000	2.24	38.53
12	WI	Portage	25,000	24,700	385	9,460,000	2.22	40.75
13	ID	Jefferson	30,000	29,900	310	9,269,000	2.17	42.92
14	ID	Bonneville	32,000	31,600	278	8,785,000	2.06	44.98
15	OR	Umatilla	16,200	15,900	530	8,427,000	1.98	46.96
16	OR	Morrow	16,000	15,800	505	7,990,000	1.87	48.83
17	ND	Walsh	43,000	41,600	183	7,600,000	1.78	50.61
18	ID	Twin Falls	19,500	19,500	385	7,507,000	1.76	52.37
19	CO	Rio Grande	23,000	23,000	325	7,450,000	1.75	54.12
20	WA	Walla Walla	11,500	11,500	630	7,250,000	1.70	55.82
21	ID	Jerome	16,000	15,900	397	6,312,000	1.48	57.30
22	WI	Adams	14,800	14,600	400	5,840,000	1.37	58.67
23	ND	Pembina	32,000	31,300	186	5,829,000	1.37	60.04
24	CO	Saguache	18,000	18,000	325	5,820,000	1.36	61.40
25	ID	Gooding	14,000	13,900	400	5,560,000	1.30	62.71
26	ND	Grand Forks	18,500	17,800	283	5,038,000	1.18	63.89
27	WI	Waushara	13,200	13,100	370	4,870,000	1.14	65.03
28	ID	Elmore	9,800	9,800	469	4,598,000	1.08	66.11
29	OR	Malheur	11,500	11,400	400	4,560,000	1.07	67.18
30	MI	Montcalm	12,000	11,900	345	4,115,000	.96	68.14
31	WI	Langlade	11,600	11,400	350	3,982,000	.93	69.08
32	ID	Clark	12,000	12,000	318	3,819,000	.90	69.97
33	ID	Canyon	8,000	8,000	444	3,549,000	.83	70.80
34	ID	Owyhee	7,000	7,000	450	3,150,000	.74	71.54
35	OR	Klamath	8,000	7,800	340	2,652,000	.62	72.16
36	WA	Skagit	8,400	8,400	315	2,645,000	.62	72.78
37	ND	Kidder	6,100	6,100	375	2,290,000	.54	73.32
38	NM	San Juan	6,200	5,900	370	2,183,000	.51	73.83
39	MN	Sherburne	6,600	6,400	330	2,112,000	.50	74.33
40	MN	Polk	12,200	10,800	190	2,052,000	.48	74.81
41	ID	Lincoln	5,000	5,000	400	2,000,000	.47	75.28
42	CO	Costilla	4,900	4,800	365	1,750,000	.41	75.69
43	MI	St. Joseph	4,800	4,600	370	1,700,000	.40	76.48
44	ID	Bannock	4,500	4,500	370	1,665,000	.39	76.85
45	MN	Morrison	4,000	3,900	410	1,599,000	.37	77.22
46	ID	Teton	7,200	7,200	220	1,584,000	.37	77.58
47	WA	Lincoln	3,000	3,000	510	1,530,000	.36	77.93
48	ID	Caribou	6,000	6,000	250	1,500,000	.35	78.25
49	AZ	Maricopa	4,800	4,800	284	1,363,000	.32	78.53
50	MT	Gallatin	3,690	3,690	325	1,195,000	.28	78.81

County Rankings, 1998 Crop Year: Top 100 Counties*, Based on Production

Rank	State	County	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production	% of U.S.	Accum. % of U.S.
			Acres	Acres	Cwt.	Cwt.		
51	CO	Weld	3,600	3,500	330	1,155,000	.27	79.08
52	MI	Bay	4,200	4,150	275	1,150,000	.27	79.34
53	OR	Baker	2,800	2,700	420	1,134,000	.27	79.61
54	MN	Todd	3,000	2,900	390	1,131,000	.27	79.85
55	ND	McHenry	2,800	2,800	365	1,023,000	.24	80.08
56	ND	Ransom	3,200	3,100	320	993,000	.23	80.31
57	MI	Tuscola	3,400	3,400	290	980,000	.23	80.52
58	AZ	Pinal	3,300	3,300	279	921,000	.22	80.72
59	WA	Yakima	2,000	2,000	415	830,000	.19	80.91
60	WA	Klickitat	1,400	1,400	590	826,000	.19	81.10
61	NC	Pasquotank	4,400	4,300	190	815,900	.19	81.30
62	WA	Whatcom	2,400	2,400	340	815,000	.19	81.48
63	WI	Barron	1,800	1,800	435	785,000	.18	81.66
64	WI	Juneau	2,100	2,100	365	765,000	.18	81.84
65	PA	Erie	3,200	3,100	243	753,500	.18	82.01
66	PA	Cambria	3,200	3,140	237	745,600	.17	82.18
67	MT	Lake	2,450	2,450	305	741,500	.17	82.36
68	ND	Dickey	2,400	2,200	335	738,000	.17	82.52
69	WI	Waupaca	1,800	1,800	390	700,000	.16	82.69
70	ID	Blaine	2,000	2,000	350	700,000	.16	82.84
71	CO	Yuma	1,800	1,700	395	675,000	.16	83.00
72	MN	Clay	5,500	3,700	180	666,000	.16	83.15
73	ND	Emmons	1,800	1,800	360	648,000	.15	83.30
74	ID	Payette	1,500	1,500	420	630,000	.14	83.44
75	NM	Curry	2,750	2,150	280	602,000	.14	83.58
76	MI	Presque Isle	2,400	2,350	250	590,000	.13	83.71
77	NC	Washington	2,900	2,800	200	556,300	.13	83.84
78	WI	Marathon	1,600	1,600	345	550,000	.13	83.96
79	NC	Camden	2,800	2,800	190	536,800	.13	84.09
80	ND	Sargent	1,600	1,600	335	536,000	.12	84.21
81	ND	Stutsman	1,400	1,400	375	525,000	.12	84.33
82	CO	Conejos	1,700	1,700	295	500,000	.11	84.45
83	WI	Oneida	1,900	1,800	270	486,000	.11	84.56
84	MN	Freeborn	3,000	2,700	180	486,000	.11	84.67
85	ID	Butte	2,000	2,000	238	476,000	.11	84.78
86	CO	Morgan	1,300	1,300	350	455,000	.11	84.88
87	NC	Tyrell	2,450	2,450	185	450,300	.11	84.99
88	MN	Marshall	5,900	3,900	115	448,500	.10	85.09
89	ND	Traill	3,000	2,600	170	442,000	.10	85.19
90	NC	Pamlico	2,700	2,400	180	429,100	.10	85.29
91	ND	Foster	1,300	1,300	330	429,000	.10	85.39
92	OR	Jefferson	1,200	1,100	390	429,000	.09	85.49
93	MI	Monroe	1,200	1,200	335	400,000	.09	85.58
94	NM	Roosevelt	1,400	1,400	280	392,000	.09	85.67
95	ND	Griggs	1,200	1,200	320	384,000	.09	85.76
96	WI	Wood	1,000	1,000	370	370,000	.09	85.84
97	OR	Union	1,100	1,100	330	363,000	.08	85.93
98	NJ	Salem	1,300	1,300	278	362,000	.08	86.01
99	ID	Washington	800	800	450	360,000	.08	86.09
100	PA	Schuylkill	1,400	1,360	259	352,500	.07	86.17

* All states do not estimate potatoes at the county level. States which ranked in the top ten in potato production but did not estimate county-level data in 1998 included California and Maine.



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